

From the Managing Editor

NEWS about the Army's selection of an Interim Armored Vehicle, the chief of staff's decision on a common flash for the new black beret headgear and the Army's adoption of a new advertising and recruiting slogan are but a few of the topics included in this issue of *Soldiers*.

And speaking of topics, the quarterly insert "Hot Topics" included with this issue tackles one close to the hearts — and pocketbooks — of every soldier: managing your money.

This issue opens with a feature on the role of the Army's first combat division — the famed "Big Red One," beginning on page 4.

And *Soldiers'* journalist Heike Hasenauer gives readers a 10-year perspective on the 100-hour Gulf War that produced a multitude of revisions in how America's Army prepares for, and wages, war. Her article begins on page 26.

Finally, our back cover series, *Army Transforming America*, focuses on the legendary Lewis and Clark expedition.



Where's Kitchen Photo?

I WAS very pleased to see your "Haute Cuisine" article in the December issue. However, I was disappointed that you did not feature a picture of the containerized kitchen. Your article described the tactical features of the CK so well but the attached picture of the very nonmobile Force Provider kitchen was misleading. The CK is a leap-ahead improvement in field feeding. It will be fielded this year, so it would have been nice for soldiers to have gotten to see its mobility pictured in *Soldiers*.

MAJ Teresa T. Dillon
Fort Sam Houston, Texas

UNFORTUNATELY, our staff was unable to locate a photo of the CK in time for publication.

Cooldest Celebration

DO you have any additional pictures from the article "The Coolest Celebration on Earth"? I am on active duty in Germany from a National Guard engineer battalion in Minnesota. This is the first time in many years that I can't attend the Winter Carnival in St. Paul and would like to see some additional pictures if any were taken.

Sara Gronli
via e-mail

TAKE a look at our website for the December *Soldiers Online*. If you need help finding it, try <http://www.dtic.mil/soldiers/dec2000/pdfs/slide.pdf>. That should take you right to the "coolest" story. Once there, scroll down past the title page to see the pictures.

Travelink Correction

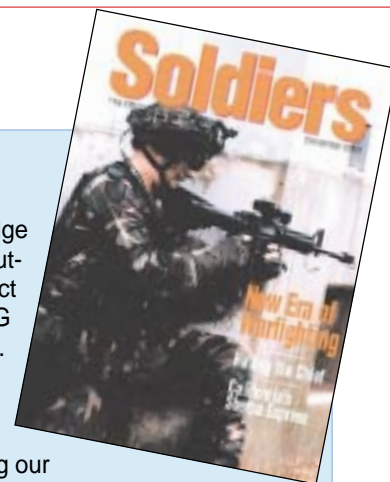
I HAD difficulty accessing the URL www.dtic.military/trav-

Surrender? NUTS

THE December Battle of the Bulge article by Renita Foster was outstanding. I would like to contact her and, if possible, get LTG Harry W. O. Kinnard's address. I'm the professor of military science at Augusta State University, and we would like him to be our guest speaker during our SROTC Military Awards Banquet in April. Any assistance would be appreciated.

MAJ Anthony Laterza
Augusta, Ga.

RENITA Foster (an Army Reserve lieutenant colonel) has agreed to work with you in making contact with LTG Kinnard.



elink given in your December article. Upon doing a search, I found the correct URL is: www.dtic.mil/travelink. The new travel system will become a hot topic, especially if soldiers (particularly Reservists) are not able to access and perform the requirements from their own computers. Otherwise, keep up the great work.

SFC Jacqueline O. Chaplin
San Antonio, Texas

YOU, and other readers, are right. We normally do check Web links; that one slipped past us. Thanks for the correction.

Salute to Veterans

THE Veterans Day proclamation in the November issue of *Soldiers* did a disservice to all Vietnam War veterans, of whom my son is one. In the listing of wars, the gap between Chosin Reservoir and Kuwait without a mention of Vietnam was not understood by this old soldier.

MSG Edwin C. Larson (Ret.)
Pacific Grove, Calif.

NO slight was intended; the mention of various battles was

intended merely to illustrate the Army's role throughout U.S. history, not be a definitive combat chronology.

Balkans Collection

THE United States Military Academy's History Department is gathering materials for a Balkans Special Collection to be maintained in the West Point Archives. The intent is to consolidate materials that will be helpful to those interested in the soldier experience in the Balkans in years to come.

The collection would make future research on service in the Balkans easier, and would prevent the loss of a wealth of soldier experience and insight as time passes and individuals discard invaluable materials. It will include electronic or hard-copy information that soldiers have maintained about their service in the Balkans for the last several years — letters written home or to friends, journal entries and e-mails, or personal reminiscences of their time in the Balkans — as well as formal after-action reviews.

The USMA History Depart-

ment staff hopes to collect a diverse body of experiences, recollections and memories of American soldiers' experiences in the Balkans. All materials can be sent to:

Alan C. Aimone
Senior Special
Collections Librarian
USMA Library
West Point, NY 10996-1799
E-mail: ua3925@exmail.usma.mil.

I'll answer any questions about the collection at (845) 938-4410 or e-mail: kj6911@exmail.usma.mil.

CPT Jeffrey W. French
West Point, N.Y.

What's That Weapon?

YOUR November article, "Second to None," includes a picture on page 4 of PFC Joseph Welch of the 2nd Inf. Div. behind a weapon. The weapon looks like it is modeled after the M-249 SAW; however, it looks like it is being fed 7.62 mm rounds.

Can you clarify this and let me know the type and caliber of the weapon shown?

Thanks so much for your ongoing efforts through the years to show the great things that our soldiers are doing, day by day.

SFC Gregory W. Funderburk
via e-mail

Soldiers' weapons expert says it's an M-240B machine gun. That weapon entered Army service in 1997. It fires a 7.62 mm round, weighs 27.6 pounds, has a range of 1,100 meters and a variable rate of fire of from 200 to 600 rounds per minute.

Hot Topic: Supplements

I WOULD like to compliment **Soldiers** on the excellent November "Hot Topics" insert. I have long been concerned that military exchanges and their concessions are selling spurious remedies to soldiers. The Federal Trade Commission has taken action against these stores for making unsubstantiated claims, yet they still operate on military installations.

Unfortunately, our educational system does a poor job of equipping citizens to make informed decisions about scientific matters. Thanks for this issue of "Hot Topics" so soldiers may make more informed choices about what they put in their bodies.

MAJ George B. Spence III
via e-mail

I WAS very disappointed in your "Hot Topics" on supplements.

As a personal trainer and experienced fitness instructor,

I have seen the benefits of dietary supplements. Thousands of documented studies done by respected physicians and universities support the use of some supplements. I do agree that many products, if misused, can cause serious side effects. But to say that they all are useless and harmful is an extremely biased view. I have used many supplements and have benefited from the results.

SGT William A. Stratton
Fort Bragg, N.C.

To be accurate, we didn't say that all supplements are useless and harmful. We cited several—including both St. John's Wort and saw palmetto—that have been shown to be beneficial if used correctly.

Berlin Revisited

HEIKE Hasenauer's November article about Berlin is one of the best, fairest and most exact ones published in a long time.

Because of this article, we have received many calls about our museum and visits from former U.S. soldiers who were stationed in Berlin or even lived at McNair Barracks. Thank you again for the great article.

Peter Kauschke
Berlin Foundation

MANY soldiers who were stationed in Berlin are trying to stay in touch via the Internet. For example, a club where lost friends can be reunited and exchange experiences can be found at <http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/berlinbrigade-wallwatchers>. Another is www.berlinbrigade.com—a website where people can list their names to find friends.

These nonmilitary webpages give us back a piece of home that we lost when we left Berlin. In addition, each page also has a wealth of additional links.

Suzanne Dawson
via e-mail

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